



**PRESS STATEMENT  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA**

**UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)  
SITUATION IN MALAYSIA  
18 August 2020**

**Current Status of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Who Have Recovered**

The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **26 cases** have fully recovered and discharged today. **Cumulatively, 8,902 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been discharged** (96.6% of total cumulative cases).

**Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia**

18 August 2020, 12 pm – a total of **seven (7) additional confirmed COVID-19 case** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **9,219 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Therefore, there are **currently 192 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have all been isolated and given treatment.

Of the seven (7) additional cases reported today, four (4) are imported cases who were **infected overseas**, involving two (2) **Malaysians** and two (2) **non-Malaysians**. These four (4) imported cases were travellers from the following countries:

- Bangladesh – 3 cases in Kuala Lumpur
- United Kingdom – 1 case in Kuala Lumpur

All three (3) **local transmission cases** are among Malaysians in Kedah. The details are as follows:

- Kedah – 3 cases:
  - 2 cases: From the Sala Cluster.
  - 1 case: From the Tawar Cluster.

The latest updates on both Clusters are detailed below.

Currently, **eight (8) confirmed COVID-19 cases** are receiving treatment in the **intensive care units (ICUs)**, and two (2) patients are on ventilation support.

**No additional COVID-19 death** was reported to the National CPRC MOH today. Cumulatively, there remains **125 COVID-19 deaths** in Malaysia (1.36% of total cumulative cases).

### **Current Status of the Tawar Cluster and Sala Cluster**

MOH would like to inform of the current status for the Tawar and Sala Clusters, both reporting additional confirmed cases today:

#### **The Tawar Cluster**

One (1) additional confirmed COVID-19 case is reported today in Kedah. Cumulatively there are now **47 confirmed COVID-19** cases in this cluster. As of 18 August 2020, 12 pm, a total of **1,490 individuals** have been screened in this cluster. The breakdown of screening by states involved is as follows:

1. Kedah (1,195 individuals screened):
  - 40 confirmed COVID-19 cases
  - 858 individuals tested negative
  - 297 individuals awaiting results

2. Pulau Pinang (268 individuals screened):
  - Seven (7) confirmed COVID-19 cases
  - 216 individuals tested negative
  - 63 individuals awaiting results
3. Perak (9 individuals screened):
  - 9 individuals tested negative

### **The Sala Cluster**

Two (2) additional confirmed cases are reported in Kedah today; therefore, cumulatively there are now **eight (8) confirmed COVID-19 cases**. As of 18 August 2020, 12 pm, a total of **635 individuals** have been screened in this cluster. The breakdown of screening by states involved is as follows:

1. Kedah (629 individuals screened):
  - Eight (8) confirmed COVID-19 cases
  - 479 individuals tested negative
  - 142 individuals awaiting results
2. Pulau Pinang (6 individuals screened):
  - No confirmed COVID-19 case
  - 4 individuals tested negative
  - 2 individuals awaiting results

Active case detection and screening of close contacts for both clusters are still ongoing. The current situation will be updated from time to time.

## **Transmission of Infection in the Clusters are due to Non-Compliance to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**

The causes of the infection for the Tawar and Sala Clusters are still under investigation. Nevertheless, investigation of the confirmed COVID-19 cases of both clusters found that several factors generally contributed to the transmission of infection.

The transmission of infection in the Tawar Cluster was found to be contributed by gatherings of family members who did not fully comply with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). For example, the number of individuals gathering exceeded the capacity of the indoor space, and therefore, safe physical distancing could not be practiced. These contributed to the widespread transmission within this cluster although the index case and the exact cause of infection for this cluster are still under investigation.

For the Sala Cluster, the index case has a history of visiting a patient at a hospital together with several family members. Although no confirmed COVID-19 cases were detected from screening at the hospital, all family members who accompanied the index case to visit the patient were found to be positive. Subsequently, the COVID-19 infection spread further to the close contacts of the index case and the family members. It is suspected that the practice of visiting patients in hospitals may have contributed to the transmission of infection as there are many patients in hospitals with higher risk of infection.

It was most likely that the transmission of infection could have been prevented if the public avoids the **3C's** i.e. avoid **C**rowded places; **C**onfined spaces; and **C**lose conversations

If there is an urgent need to visit the patients in the hospitals, please ensure that precautionary measures are practiced at all times. For example, wearing facemasks during the visit and ensure safe physical distancing of at least 1 metre away from patients or other individuals with symptoms, and practice good personal hygiene i.e. frequent handwashing with soap and water or use hand sanitisers.

## Health Advisory on COVID-19

MOH calls on the public to continue to practice the advisories often emphasised by the MOH as the new normal in daily life. These advisories include:

- Avoid the **3Cs**: Avoid **C**rowded places; **C**onfined spaces; and **C**lose conversations.
- Practice the **3Ws**: **W**ash hands frequently with water and soap; **W**earing facemasks are now mandatory in public areas (starting from 1 August 2020 as directed by the National Security Council) or highly recommended if symptomatic; **W**arn self and others for the following, in line with MOH's advisories:
  - Avoid shaking hands or touching others
  - Practice good coughing and sneezing etiquette
  - Seek early treatment if symptomatic
  - Stay at home and avoid from visiting others
  - Regularly clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces in common areas

In addition to the SOPs, continue to adhere to **THiS**:

- **T**: Terms set under the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO)
- **Hi**: High-risk groups such as children, infants, older adults and the disabled must be protected, and if unwell with symptoms, to seek early treatment
- **S**: Safe physical distancing is practiced at all times, of at least 1 metre away from others

MOH will continue to monitor the development of the COVID-19 situation, both in the country as well as internationally, based on available information from the World Health Organization (WHO). The public will be continuously updated on the latest information. In addition, MOH will ensure that appropriate preventive and control measures are continuously implemented.

Thank you.

**Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah**  
Director General of Health Malaysia

18 August 2020 @ 5.30 pm

## Appendix 1

### Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Malaysia, by States (Cumulative, as of 18 August 2020, 12 pm)

State	No. of New Cases *	Cumulative
Perlis	0	31
Kedah	3	183
Pulau Pinang	0	132
Perak	0	269
Selangor	0	2,150
Negeri Sembilan	0	1,034
Melaka	0	259
Johor	0	750
Pahang	0	370
Terengganu	0	114
Kelantan	0	160
Sabah	0	416
Sarawak	0	682
WP Kuala Lumpur	4 (4)	2,548
WP Putrajaya	0	99
WP Labuan	0	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 (4)</b>	<b>9,219</b>

\*( ) refers to imported confirmed COVID-19 case